

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES WILL
BE SILENCED UNDER THE
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 7, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am appalled at the message that the Republican Congress is sending to all of the American Indian and Alaska Native tribes of this country. It is saying that not only do we regard you as just another set of interest or lobbying groups, but we don't want to hear from you either.

First, the bill, H.R. 2127, treats Indian tribes like any other special interest or lobbying group. Mr. Istook has said, "It's only groups which ask for Federal handouts that are covered." Is this really how the Republican Congress views Indian tribes? Because the bill language, while it specifically exempts State or local governments, makes American Indian tribal governments fully subject to its speech-chilling provisions. Indian tribes are not special interest groups, or lobbyists—they are sovereign nations. And they are not asking for handouts.

Second, the bill would prohibit Indian tribes and tribal advocates from using any Federal funds to participate in a wide range of activities, including attempts to "influence legislation or agency action," participating "in any judicial litigation or proceeding," even as an amicus curiae, or lending any support to individual or organization that spent more than 15 percent of its expenditures on political advocacy in the previous year. In addition, the bill gags tribes by defining "influence" to include any communications with any Member or employee of a legislative body or agency, or with any Government official or employee who may participate in the formulation of legislation or agency action.

Tribes or tribal organizations that engaged in substantial political activity during any of the past 5 years, starting in fiscal year 1996, will lose all of their Federal funding. It is as simple as that. The threshold is 5 percent of the tribe's nongrant funds; in other words, 5 percent of the difference between the tribe's total expenditures and the amount of its Federal funding. Furthermore, any tribe or tribal organization that receives Federal funding will be required to prove by clear and convincing evidence that it has complied with all of the provisions of the bill.

How on Earth does this Congress expect Indian tribes—who depend upon Congress, the Executive, and the courts for protection, and who count upon the Federal Government to uphold its trust responsibility to them—to have any role at all in democratic process? Under

this ridiculous scheme, Indian tribes and tribal organizations would be left without any say or recourse in the development of laws, the formulation of agency actions, or the decision-making of courts—unless they are named parties in a case.

For instance, tribes could not consult with the House or the Senate on matters such as the Interior budget, welfare reform, gaming, education, or self-governance. Tribes could not work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs or with the Indian Health Service to improve education, health care, to protect their resources, or otherwise safeguard their rights. Finally, the bill would discourage or prevent tribes from submitting amicus briefs on Indian cases before the Supreme Court.

If this bill had been the law, then few if any of the gains that tribes have made in Congress or the courts in the past 30 years would have occurred. We would not have a Self-Determination Act or a Self-Governance Program. We would not have an American Indian Religious Freedom Act or an Indian Child Welfare Act. There would not be a Native American Rights Fund or an Indian health board in existence.

Let's not kid ourselves. The Republican Members of this Congress knew exactly what they were going when they chose not to exempt American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments from this bill—they were trying to silence the voice of this Nation's first peoples. There simply is no excuse for this at all.

BETHEL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH: A CENTURY OF CARING
CONGREGATIONS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 7, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, August 13 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Bethel United Methodist Church of Akron, MI. This event provides another opportunity for the celebration of congregation and community that has been the hallmark of this place of faith.

I say the celebration of congregation and community because that is precisely how Bethel Church started. From a group of neighbors who met to sing Christian hymns under the leadership of William Parker and became known as the "Lend A Hand Society." With the services of a Methodist minister, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Highley, Mr. and Mrs. Philander Shaver, Mr. and Mrs. James Irish, two Sherman brothers, and Miss Bessie Fairbanks were baptized, becoming the charter members of Bethel Church.

With the support, donations, and labor of the congregation, Bethel Church was dedicated on Sunday, August 15, 1895. Over the years it operated in different fashions, sharing

a minister with the Akron Methodist Church in Saginaw, and then in 1932 becoming part of a three-point charge with Akron and Fairgrove for 4 years, then returning to its affiliation with Akron. A minister was shared with Akron and Unionville in 1969. And finally in 1972 the Detroit conference aligned Bethel Church with the Sutton-Sunshine United Methodist Church in the Port Huron district.

The building itself received many modifications over the years, again from the contributions and labors of its congregation, including some most memorable carpentry work done by Gerald Dunham, a 50-year member of the church. Today, with its 33 members, Bethel United Methodist Church remains as viable and reverent as ever. These members continue to look out for the best for their community and their neighbors. In fact, Carson and Loris Dunham joined a group of lay people that went to Guatemala earlier this year to help build a home in Guatemala City, again showing how love and devotion can manifest themselves in wonderfully simple but life-impacting ways.

As Bethel United Methodist Church looks past its centennial to its activities for its second 100 years, it welcomes its new pastor, the Rev. Don Gotham, as he replaces the interim pastor, the Rev. Douglas Lefler. Mr. Speaker, when consistency and faith can be most important guides for our lives, I believe it is very appropriate to honor those institutions and individuals who have shown us the way by their life practices. I urge you and all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Bethel United Methodist Church a most joyful and rewarding 100th anniversary, and all of the blessings for many, many more successful years.

U.S. DAVY CROCKETT TURNS
EIGHTY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 7, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, our lives have all been affected by heroes of one kind or another. I rise today to pay tribute to one of those heroes who throughout his life has tried to vividly bring history to young and old, Mr. Leslie E. Arndt, of Linwood, MI, who will be celebrating his 80th birthday on August 20.

Leslie Arndt has been known to perhaps millions as "U.S. Davy Crockett" for his portrayal of this American hero between 1955 and 1976 in 28 States, Canada, and the 1958 World's Fair in Belgium during a European tour. He was significantly involved in the rededication of Fort Davy Crockett, in Colorado in 1959, honored by the Crockett family at the Alamo that same year, and is an honorary member of the National Descendants of David Crockett.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

His love of history of and his dealing with people have been a life-long passion. As an author of three books—with a fourth coming soon—detailing the history of Bay County, MI, his home county and mine, he has helped many understand the important part that history plays in all of our lives.

He also made his own history, serving as founder of the world's first charted community People-to-People chapter in Bay City in 1961, following a program set up by President Eisenhower at a White House conference in 1955. He has also led delegations to give sister cities in Belgium, Germany, Poland, Togo, and Ontario, a better appreciation for what Bay City is all about. And he made sure the people of Bay City got the correct information by working with the editorial Department of the Bay City Times for 30 years as both as copy editor and Saturday columnist.

His granddaughter, Michelle White, tells me she is very proud of her grandfather. She has every reason to be. A man who gives of himself to help others learn and to help others smile is a real treasure. I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Leslie Arndt a most joyous 80th birthday, with the fondest wishes for many, many more.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 1995, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 9

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 1054, to provide for the protection of Southeast Alaska jobs and communities.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold joint hearings with the Select Committee on Intelligence to examine the extent of war crimes in the Balkans.

SD-G50

Indian Affairs

Business meeting, to mark up S. 487, to establish a Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Commission to regulate Indian gaming operations and standards.

SD-106

Select on Intelligence

To hold joint hearings with the Committee on Foreign Relations to examine the extent of war crimes in the Balkans.

SD-G50

Special Committee To Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters

To continue hearings to examine issues relative to the President's involvement with the Whitewater Development Corporation, focusing on certain events following the death of Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster.

SH-216

2:00 p.m.

Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management and The District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings on H.R. 2108, to permit the Washington Convention Center Authority to expend revenues for the op-

eration and maintenance of the existing Washington Convention Center and for preconstruction activities relating to a new convention center in the District of Columbia, to permit a designated authority of the District of Columbia to borrow funds for the preconstruction activities relating to a sports arena in the District of Columbia, and to permit certain revenues to be pledged as security for the borrowing of such funds.

SD-342

AUGUST 10

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to review the implementation of section 2001 (relating to emergency salvage of diseased dead timber on Federal forest lands) of the Fiscal Year 1995 Emergency Appropriations Supplemental and Rescissions bill (P.L. 104-19).

SD-366

Special Committee To Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters

To continue hearing to examine issues relative to the President's involvement with the Whitewater Development Corporation, focusing on certain events following the death of Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster.

SH-216

2:00 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine United States Sentencing Commission's cocaine sentencing policy.

SD-226